

ABSTRACT

An "H layout" according to the present invention affords
5 for a smaller, simpler, less expensive and higher
performance midplane for use in a communication system
for connecting various modules together. The layout is
based on the concept of symmetry around a mid-section,
which allows for the reuse of APM cards on the top and
10 bottom of a midplane. All high-speed tracks on the
midplane are concentrated in the center thereof. Front
and back connectors on the midplane are staggered so as
to permit very high module densities while maintaining
manageable finger access. The present invention has the
15 advantages of: reducing high-speed track lengths in a
backplane or midplane; simplifying high speed track
routing by having almost only horizontal tracks on the
midplane, thus reducing crossing over; and providing a
smaller midplane, thus reducing costs.